William Hawke *in the Press Yard* Newgate.

Hawke *robs* Cap.t Cunningham & Mr. Hart *the* Cap.t *beats the* Highway Man's Horse.

William Hawke *in the Press Yard* Newgate.

Hawke *robs* Cap.t Cunningham & Mr. Hart *the* Cap.t *beats the* Highway Man's Horse.

Hawke *robs* Capt. Cunningham & M^{r}. Hart *the* Capt. *beats the* Highway Man's Horse.

AN AUTHENTIC AND GENUINE

NARRATIVE

OF THE

LIFE

AND

SURPRIZING EXPLOITS,

OF

WILLIAM HAWKE,

THE FAMOUS HIGHWAYMAN,

Who was executed at Tyburn, *July* 1, 1774,

For robbing Mr. CHARLES HART, on the Highway, of 1s. 8d.

CONTAINING

I. An Account of his Birth, Education, and firſt Entrance on the Thieving Trade.

II. Of his numerous Robberies, both as a Footpad, and on the Highway.

III. Inſtances of his Generoſity and Compaſſion to Perſons in Diſtreſs.

IV. His Excurſion to France, with his Character of that Country and People.

V. His Tranſportation to America, and Return from thence.

VI. His Eſcape out of Tothill-fields Bridewell.

VII. His Battle with Captain Cunningham and Mr. Hart.

VIII. The Manner of his Apprehenſion, with his deſperate Reſiſtance.

IX. His Behaviour under Sentence of Death in Newgate, and at the Place of Execution.

X. Reflections on the Cauſes of the numerous Robberies on the Highway.

EXHIBITING

Such uncommon Inſtances of Boldneſs and Audacity, as are ſcarcely to be found in the Annals of Newgate, or the Hiſtory of Tyburn.

With Two COPPER-PLATES;

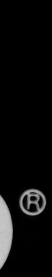
One being a ſtriking Likeneſs of the Criminal, the other the Manner of his robbing Capt. Cunningham and Mr. Hart.

LONDON:

Printed for the AUTHOR; and Sold by R. RICHARDS, at his Lottery-Office, No. 44, almoſt oppoſite Hatton-Garden, Holborn. 1774.

[PRICE ONE SHILLING.]

N, B. At the ſame Place is Sold the Life and Trial of WILLIAM COX.



THE

LIFE

OF

WILLIAM HAWKE, &c.

IF every man was *honeſt*, and governed his conduct by the principles of equity and juſtice, what ſcenes of felicity, peace and tranquility, would be continually ſpread before our eyes! Friendſhip and good neighbourhood would be ſincere, and being entirely diveſted of hypocriſy and ſelf-ends, would become a real bleſſing; ſociety would be unanimous in promoting the common good, and every man's property would be ſecure, without the aſſiſtance of locks and bolts, and defenſive arms; and he would have no need of ſtrong boxes, iron cheſts, or private repoſitories for his wealth, for the good faith that ruled the actions of every man, would be his ſufficient protection.

Or if that golden rule of doing to every man as we would be treated ourſelves, did but univerſally prevail, plunder and rapine, oppreſſion and perſecution, envy and revenge, malice and hatred, would be as little heard of, as their contrary virtues are at preſent practiſed.

But, alas! the very reverſe of all theſe fine ſpeculations is experienced. What ſcenes of villainy are continually opening to our view? What havock, what ruin, what devaſtation, do the unruly paſſions of men occaſion among their fellow creatures! But as the ſubject of this ſtory confines me to one particular ſpecies of iniquity, that of robbery, I ſhall purſue that only.

There was a law enacted in the reign of *Edward the Confeſſor*, that every perſon of the age of 12 years, ought to be ſworn in view of frank-pledge, *That he would neither become a Thief himſelf, nor be anywiſe acceſſary to Theft.* Now if this, or any other law of the like tendency, were ſtill in force, and ſtrictly obſerved, it is highly probable we ſhould not hear of ſo many robberies and executions as have diſgraced this nation; and if Hawke, the hero of our narrative, had taken ſuch an oath in his youth, it is very poſſible he would have lived an honeſt man, and died in his bed. But as his whole life (at leaſt the major part of it) has been one continued courſe of depredation upon the properties of his fellow ſubjects, and an outrage upon the laws of his country, we muſt follow him through all his adventures, till we come to his final cataſtrophe, which ſhall be related with the utmoſt regard to truth, and the moſt authentic account we have been able to collect of him.

William Hawke, who long reigned monarch of the roads, was a native of *Uxbridge*, and born in the year 1744. His parents were honeſt and induſtrious people, and in good repute among their neighbourhood. He was by trade a jeweller, though he did not ſerve a regular apprenticeſhip to that or any other buſineſs.

When he was about 16 years of age he came to London, and for ſome time applied himſelf to his buſineſs as a jeweller, but growing weary of confinement, he took a lodging in Leather-Lane, Holborn, and in that neighbourhood unluckily fell into company with James Field, Edward Milſom, and Daniel Mc Donald, and from that time may be dated the commencement of his miſchievous adventures on the road; for theſe men perceiving he was of a bold and enterpriſing diſpoſition, and perfectly qualified to ſhare in the deſperate hazards they ran, invited him to join them in their future exploits; and he made no ſcruple to embrace their propoſal, and ſoon diſtinguiſhed himſelf by his reſolute and intrepid behaviour in the moſt dangerous attacks.

The articles of this quadruple alliance being ratified and confirmed by the parties thereto, they ſoon began to put the ſame in execution, and iſſuing out into the environs

environs of London, commenced their hoſtilities againſt the King's ſubjects, and as one article of their alliance was to be equal ſharers in the plunder and ſpoils they ſhould make in the courſe of their practice, they faithfully obſerved that part of the agreement, for whoever got the prize, it was equally divided among them.

Hawke did not commence highwayman at once, but came to it gradually, ſerving the firſt part of his time to the trade of a footpad, which qualified him for undertaking the more dangerous, as well as the more lucrative adventures on the road. In the former capacity he, in company with others, committed many robberies in and about the cities of London and Weſtminſter. About ſix years ago, he, with Mc Donald and others their aſſociates, broke a pane of glaſs in the ſhop-window of Mr. Ferris, ſilverſmith, at the corner of Leather Lane, Holborn, and took away ſix watches, for which Mc Donald was tried at the Old Bailey, and acquitted; but Hawke, who had the watches, having the beſt pair of heels among them, eſcaped that bout.

Theſe confederates in iniquity having thus joined their forces, marched out in ſearch of prey, and near Mother Redcap's, Holloway, committed a robbery, for which Milſom and Mc Donald being apprehended and tried at the Old Bailey, the former was acquitted for want of poſitive evidence, and the other received ſentence of death, and was accordingly executed.

Hawke and Field, however, did not always eſcape the rod of juſtice; for about five years ago, they had the ſentence of tranſportation paſſed upon them; but they not chuſing ſo long a voyage, for no other purpoſe but to be made ſlaves, and preferring liberty before ſuch hard terms of bondage, ſevere ſervitude, and the overſeer's whip, joined their inventive wits in contriving an eſcape, which they attempted in a place in Newgate, called the Lower Ward. A woman brought to them two large iron crows, with other implements, by the help of which they had almoſt compleated their deſign, but their behaviour diſcovering great reaſon for ſuſpecting their intention, they were narrowly watched by the keeper's ſervants, who detected them in the moment they were executing their project; ſo that inſtead

of

of gaining their freedom, they were loaded with the heavieſt irons that were in the priſon, and cloſely confined in the cells till the day they were put on board the tranſport ſhip.

To America they were conveyed, and having ſtaid there about a twelvemonth, but not liking either the country or their employment, they found means to return to England, where they no ſooner landed, but they purchaſed horſes, and equipped themſelves with piſtols, hangers, &c. and being thus mounted and armed, they ſat out for London, but had not proceeded more than ſix miles, before they overtook the carriage of Richard Prinald, Eſq. Before they attacked him, they rode round the coach four times, and then ordered the driver to ſtop. Mr. Prinald perceiving their intention, let down the glaſs, and inſtantly ſaw a piſtol clapped to his breaſt on the right ſide, and at the ſame inſtant another piſtol preſented from the oppoſite ſide, and pointed directly at his ear. The rogues were ſilent for near three minutes. Mr. Prinald, ſeeing there was no way to evade their purpoſe, delivered his purſe, containing about 13l. Hawke having received it, put it up, and ſaid, Sir, I apprehend you have a watch; but he declaring he had none about him, they rode off.

Having concerted a new plan of operation, they diſpoſed of their horſes, and bought others, and dreſſing themſelves like farmers, directed their courſe towards Northampton, where they ſtaid a few days, and in that time having got intelligence that a capital trader in that town was upon his return from London, where he had been ſelling a large quantity of grain, they mounted their horſes with a reſolution to eaſe him of the precious burden they imagined he was loaded with; and ſtopping him about five miles on this ſide Dunſtable, robbed him of about 6l. he having lodged the reſt of his caſh with a banker in town.

But though Hawke had many vices, yet he was not deſtitute of every virtue. Generoſity and compaſſion have ſometimes found a place in his breaſt, even to the excluſion of avarice and ſelf-intereſt, of which take this inſtance. Hawke being out one day upon the lay, overtook a gentleman on the road, and gave him the uſual ſalute of, *Deliver!* The gentleman declared

he

he had not a ſixpence for himſelf, and that he was a tradeſman under unfortunate circumſtances, and was then flying from his creditors to avoid a priſon. Hawke aſked him what ſum would ſatisfy them? And being told, he bid the perſon meet him at a certain place and time. He met him according to the appointment, when Hawke gave him a ſum ſufficient to ſatisfy his creditors, which was much more than enough to pay the man's debts.

But tho' this may be eſteemed an act of generoſity in the highwayman, yet a queſtion has been ſtarted, whether the man could honeſtly and gratefully receive his gift, ſince he could not be ignorant (from Hawke's firſt addreſs) of the means by which it was gotten; and therefore, ſay they, the man was equally guilty with the robber, according to a long eſtabliſhed rule, that *the receiver is as bad as a thief*. On the other hand there is a very antient proverb which ſays *you ſhould not look a gift-horſe in the mouth*; that is, if a friend makes you a preſent of a horſe, you ought not to examine whether he has any teeth, but thankfully accept it, without queſtioning as the goodwill of the donor. So, if I am in diſtreſs, and a perſon (whom I have reaſon to believe is a bad man) commiſerating my misfortune, offers me relief, ſhall I refuſe his kindneſs, becauſe his character is not very reputable, or ſhall I aſk him how he came by the money with which he is ſo kind as to aſſiſt me? I think not. However as this is a caſe of conſcience rather than of law, I ſhall leave it to more able caſuiſts to determine.

Another inſtance of Hawke's generous concern for the afflicted, and his readineſs to ſupply their neceſſities, is the following: Hawke, at a certain time, being terribly reduced in his finances, by giving a looſe to his voluptuous inclinations, thought it neceſſary to recruit himſelf on the road. Accordingly he ſallies out; and it was the misfortune of a poor Higler, who was driving a little cart loaded with his uſual commodities, to be the firſt object of his attention. Hawke knowing that theſe people had not about them much money of their own, eſpecially in their going to market, yet often carried the caſh of others

to

to buy goods in town for the country people, enters into a familiar converſation with him. Well friend, ſays he, how goes the world with you? Hard enough maſter, replies the man; I can ſcarce get a livelihood as times go. But I ſuppoſe, ſays Hawke, you are never without money. It is but ſeldom, anſwers the Higler very ſimply, I have much money of my own; but am ſometimes truſted with caſh to lay out for other people. I ſuppoſe then, ſaid Hawke, you have ſome for this purpoſe in your pocket now? Yes, replies the unſpecting Higler, I have. Hawke having then got the information he wanted, told him he muſt make bold to borrow it, and to enforce his demand, ſhews him his piſtol. The man terrified at this unexpected ſalute, inſtantly fell on his knees, telling him that it would be his utter ruin, and that he ſhould never be employed again. This affecting remonſtrance made ſo deep an impreſſion on the robber, that he only took from him two guineas for the ſupply of his preſent neceſſities, and promiſed to return it with intereſt; and accordingly ſent him five guineas in a few days afterwards by the poſt, to a place appointed for that purpoſe.

At another time, as he was paſſing over a common, in purſuit of the buſineſs of his profeſſion, he obſerved a young man walking in a very melancholy manner. Being curious to know the grounds of his apparent uneaſineſs, he ſtops his horſe, in order to have ſome talk with him; and finding it proceeded from the want of a ſmall ſum of money to pay a debt, which if he could not diſcharge, would be the means of preventing his marrying a young woman to whom he was contracted. Hawke enquired where he might ſend to him, and the very next day ſent him the ſum, with a conſiderable overplus.

At another time he met with a perſon, whoſe appearance promiſed a good booty; but upon finding he was a ſtrolling player, and that he was ſuch more by neceſſity than inclination, being brought up to no profeſſion, and had only a few ſhillings in his pocket, he gave him a guinea, and at the ſame time damn'd him for a fool, for taking up with ſuch a

beggarly

beggarly employment, when he might ride on as good a horſe as himſelf did, had he any heart in his belly; and ſo rode on in ſearch of ſomething more valuable.

Another remarkable inſtance of his readineſs to aſſiſt the diſtreſſed, was this: As he was one day on the road on the look-out, he ſpies a farmer ſitting by the way-ſide crying and lamenting in a very doleful manner, Hawke, enquires what was the occaſion of his exceſſive grief. The farmer anſwer'd he had juſt been robbed by two footpads of upwards of 9l. which he was going to pay to his landlord for rent, and that the loſs of it would be his ruin. Hawke bid him get up behind him, and ſhew the way the footpads went, which he did, and in a little time came up with them, and ſoon forced them to ſurrender what they had taken from the farmer; but not content with his, obliged them to give him a conſiderable ſum beſides, which according to the law of arms, he conſidered as his own property, as acquired in open hoſtilities between declared enemies, as they had not the courage to defend it; he returned the farmer his money, and retained the overplus for his own uſe. This I think is what is called playing at rob thief.

As he was once paſſing by a grove of trees, at a conſiderable diſtance from a gentleman's ſeat, he ſaw a young lady walking with a book in her hand. Upon which imagining from her genteel appearance, ſhe would prove a valuable prize, diſmounting, ties his horſe to the gate, and went up to her, and ſoon informed her of his buſineſs. But upon a nearer view of the fair object, he took ſuch a fancy to her, that he told her ſhe might ſave her money, on condition of granting him a certain favour. But this the lady abſolutely refuſed, declaring ſhe would ſooner part with all ſhe had in the world than her virtue. Upon which he nobly reply'd, if that, madam, be your reſolution, which I think is ſomewhat extraordinary, your virtue ſhall protect your money, ſo took his leave in a very complaiſant manner. If this ſtory be true, (as I have no doubt of its veracity) it redounds

dounds more to his credit than any thing elſe that has or can be ſaid of him.

Hawke having made an expedition to France, on his return, was aſked his opinion of that country, and of the people there inhabiting, and how he durſt venture to appear in England again, after he had broke out of gaol, ſince he knew if he was taken he would ſurely ſuffer. His anſwer was, that the French were a ſet of ſuch poor beggarly wretches that there was not the leaſt proſpect of reaping a harveſt from a ſoil in which there grew nothing but ſtinking weeds and prickly thiſtles, not even gleanings; ſo that if he had not left the country as he did, he muſt inevitably have ſtarved for want of buſineſs. So he thought it better to run the riſque of being hanged in his own country, than to periſh for want among ſlaves and beggars.

It has been before hinted that Hawke and Field were tranſported to America; but that continent could not hold them there a year, but finding a proper opportunity to get off, they left it, and ſo made the beſt of their way for England; where they had not long been landed, before they joined forces with Edward Milſom; and theſe three were reckoned the moſt daring and deſperate gang of highwaymen that ever infeſted the Engliſh roads. They ſeemed to ſet danger and apprehenſion at defiance, and robbed even by day-light, and in the moſt populous roads about London; and conſidering the vaſt number of thoſe atrocious offences they daily perpetrated, it's really aſtoniſhing they ſhould meet with ſo long, ſo continued and uninterrupted ſucceſs in their villainous operations, and at the ſame time were the moſt ineautious of all the free booters of their profeſſion. For on committing a robbery, they made no ſcruple to adjourn to an adjacent alehouſe or inn, where they mixed with the company they found there, and familiarly diſcourſed of the common occurrences they had met with on the road that day; and were ſo free in their talk, that they ſeemed only deſirous of concealing the actual commiſſion of their crimes: And this they did, notwithſtanding they knew their perſons were ſo exactly deſcribed, that

had

had the officers of juſtice happened to light of them, they muſt have been unavoidably taken.

On Sunday the 25th of July laſt, not far from Kenſington, they met with and robbed Mr. Stuart of about 10l. and his watch. Shortly after this Hawke left his companions at Brentford, and riding towards Hounſlow Heath, which was the uſual ſcene of his operations, he met the chariot of Mr. Chriſtie, the auctioneer, in Pall-mall, within a ſmall diſtance of that town, and ordered the driver to ſtop. Mr. Chriſtie had then his lady with him, and Hawke coming to the ſide of the carriage, robbed them of a conſiderable ſum of money, and their watches, and then rode off very leiſurely, and ſeemingly unconcerned, which Mr. Chriſtie obſerving, determined to follow, and, if poſſible, to apprehend him; but his lady, hearing his reſolution, was ſo terrified with the villain's menaces, that ſhe fainted away, which obliged the gentleman to forbear his purſuit.

Mr. Fox, oilman, in Fleet-ſtreet, being on the road, was attacked and robbed of his money; and when theſe men were under examination before Sir John Fielding, Mr. Fox's ſervants ſwore poſitively to their perſons.

On the 17th of July laſt, Hawke and Field attacked the Glouceſter ſtage coach, near Hillington, and robbed Mr. Boucher of about 14l. and his gold watch, which watch was afterwards found in Hawke's houſe on Barnet Common.

Hawke and his companion were indefatigably induſtrious in their profeſſion, and ſcarce let a day paſs without exhibiting ſome notable teſtimony of their capacity for buſineſs in their ſphere of action.

On the 31ſt of July laſt, as Mr. Gill was travelling over Wimbleton Common, he was robbed; and ſoon after, within view of Vauxhall Turnpike, his coach was again ſtopped by Field, while Milſom and Hawke waited at a little diſtance. Field coming up to the ſide of the coach, pointed his piſtol, and demanded his money. Mr. Gill ſaid his caſh had been juſt taken from him, but would give them a draft on the caſhiers of the bank for 14l. 14s. which Field having read, returned it, and then demanded his watch. Mr. G

Mr.

thinking to detain him till ſomebody ſhould come up, entered into diſcourſe with him, which Field perceiving, ſwore he would fire, unleſs he immediately complied; upon which Mr. Gill gave it him, and Field joining his companions, they rode off together.

Not long after this it was the misfortune of Mrs. Howard to be robb'd, as ſhe was travelling in her carriage, by three men, who, beſides her money, took from her a valuable gold watch, which was afterwards found in Hawke's houſe on Barnet Common, as was likewiſe another gold watch belonging to Mrs. Ferguſon, who had been robbed the very ſame evening.

But though theſe daring and hardened wretches had long reigned triumphant in their outrages on the laws of their country, and the properties of their fellow ſubjects, in defiance of juſtice and all its miniſters, yet their wickedneſs at length met with a pretty ſevere check, as will preſently appear.

On the 2d of Auguſt laſt, Mr. Mount and his ſon, being in their carriage near Kenſington turnpike, were met by three highwaymen, who robbed them of their money and their watches; but not content with the booty they had got, and imagining the gentlemen had ſtill ſome valuable effects concealed, they followed the carriage, and ſtopt it a ſecond time, and ſearching them, took from one of them a pair of gold ſtuds, which, on dividing the prize, became Field's, who made a preſent of them to his wife. The next day theſe three heroes of the road were apprehended by a party of Sir John Fielding's men, who conveyed them to the office in Bow-ſtreet, from whence immediate notice was diſpatched to the ſeveral perſons who had lodged informations againſt them, to attend their examination, which was appointed for the next day.

Meanwhile Field's wife, being ſuſpected as an accomplice with her huſband, was ſecured, and brought with the reſt of the priſoners to Bow-ſtreet, when one of the gold ſtuds abovementioned was found upon her. Mrs. Field, willing to exculpate her huſband, affirmed, that ſhe had the ſtuds of a relation. Field, however, in order to procure his wife's liberty, immediately ſaid, he would diſcover where many valuable effects were ſecreted, provided his wife might be diſcharged. This

propoſal

propoſal was readily accepted, and about 14l. which the officers who took her into cuſtody had taken from her, the Juſtices ordered to be returned immediately. Hawke was recommitted to Tothil-fields bridewell, and the other two to New Priſon, in order to paſs a further examination the Wedneſday following. But before that day came, Milſom and Field found means, by the help of ſaws and other implements, to get rid of their fetters, and had nearly accompliſhed their deliverance, when their keepers diſcovered them, and ſo fruſtrated their deſign. Mrs. Field was again apprehended on ſuſpicion of having conveyed the ſaws to the priſoners, and they were all brought again to the office in Bow-ſtreet, when ſhe freely confeſſed the charge, adding, that in a matter which ſo nearly concerned the life of her huſband, if her conduct was not ſtrictly juſtifiable, ſhe hoped it was at leaſt excuſable.

The wives of Field and Milſom, it ſeems, were ſiſters, and as they were in their paſſage in a coach to New Priſon, Mrs. Field unlaced her ſtays, and under them concealed the tools, which ſhe afterwards gave her huſband.

At their examination —— Keeble, Eſq; who had formerly kept Mrs. Field, appeared on her behalf, and offered to be bound for her appearance at the Old Bailey, provided ſhe would refrain from viſiting her huſband; but this condition ſhe begged leave to refuſe accepting, for, ſaid ſhe, he is my huſband. Mr. Keeble generouſly gave up this propoſed condition, and, together with her father-in-law, became bound for her appearance.

Milſom pleaded hard for the diſcharge of his wife, and ſeemed greatly affected at the thought of her being deemed a felon, and endeavoured with great earneſtneſs to clear her of the crime alledged againſt her, aſſuring the Bench, that Mrs. Field, by her huſband's expreſs order, had brought the tools into the priſon; adding, that as to his own caſe, he did not much regard it, but begged that an innocent woman might not be involved in another's guilt.

The evidence on this examination, that appeared gainſt the three priſoners, Hawke, Field, and Milſom, were as follows:

Mr.

Mr. Lucas, whom Hawke and Milſom had robbed near Uxbridge, ſwore to the robbery; and Mrs. Kidſon, who keeps the Black Horſe at Fullmur, depoſed, that on the night Mr. Lucas was robbed, theſe men (as ſhe verily believed them to be) called and drank at her houſe. Elizabeth Webb declared, that theſe men were at her houſe on Iver Heath, the night when Mr. Lucas was robbed. After the examination, and the ſeveral witneſſes had given their evidence, Mr. Gill, Mr. Stuart, Mr. Howard, Mr. Chriſtie, Mrs. Ferguſon, the two Mr. Mounts, Mrs. Kidſon, Mr. Fox, his Servants, and many others, were bound over to proſecute.

The method taken, and the manner of apprehending theſe highwaymen, was as follows: They having ſold to Joſeph Levi, a Jew, ſome gold, which appeared to have been watch caſes, he carried it to Sir John Fielding's, and informed him where the robbers were to be found.

It happened, that the very day they were taken, Field and his wife had been married juſt a month. She had been recommended to him by Milſom's wife, who was (as has been ſaid) her own ſiſter, who aſſured her he would make an excellent huſband. But ſhe was ſoon convinced of her miſtake, for the very next day after her nuptials, ſhe diſcovered that her huſband was no better than a highwayman. However, as ſhe was now his wife, ſhe thought herſelf bound to ſcreen his villainous practices, and took a good deal of pains to diſſuade him from following ſo wicked and dangerous a courſe of life, and entreated him to betake himſelf to ſome more reputable employment. But all her advice and ſalutary admonitions were loſt upon him, though ſhe aſſured him it was in her power to procure him an appointment, which would require but little time and attendance, and on the ſalary of which he might live very comfortably. But his habit for thieving had took ſuch ſtrong hold of him, that all her rhetoric was to no purpoſe: for he coolly declared to her, *That he had long expected, and did not wiſh to avoid making his exit at the gallows.*

About the middle of Auguſt laſt, Hawke delivered himſelf from Tothil-fields bridewell by bribing one of the

the Turnkeys, who went away with him, and is not yet taken. While Hawke was in confinement here, he contracted an intimacy with the famous William Cox, * and now reſolved to put a trick upon him, not unlike ſome of thoſe that this unhappy youth had put upon others. To this end, about an hour before his eſcape, he crept ſoftly to Cox's bed, and finding him faſt aſleep, drew his breeches from under his head, and took ſix guineas out of his pocket.

Hawke being once more at liberty, returned to his old trade of raiſing contributions on the highway, and in a few days after his releaſe, robbed Mr. Byde the banker, of a trifling ſum and a ſilver watch, which he had borrowed of his ſervant, having left his gold watch at home, as he always did when out on a journey.

Not long after this he attacked Mr. Lamotte, near Tyburn turnpike, with the uſual ſalute. The gentleman gave him half a guinea, 10s. and a ſilver watch; but being diſſatisfied with ſo ſmall a prize, he obliged Mr. Lamotte to turn out all his pockets, but finding nothing worth his notice, damn'd the poſtillion, and bid him drive on.

About the middle of Auguſt laſt, as —— Spence, Eſq; was travelling over Kennington Common, he was attacked by three footpads, but the coachman ſmartly whipping his horſes, left the villains about 200 yards, when he was met by Hawke, who robbed him of three guineas.

Soon after this he ſtopped Mr. Barnſly, and took from him about two guineas, wiſhed him a good night, and rode off.

In September laſt, Hawke meeting Mr. Ladbroke in his carriage, near London, preſenting a piſtol to the driver, ordered him to ſtop, which Mr. Ladbroke obſerving, ſhifted fifty guineas from his breeches to his waiſtcoat pocket, and gave Hawke about 4l. with which he marched off.

In the ſame month it was Mr. Ward's ill luck to meet with Hawke on the road, who robbed him of a conſiderable ſum of money; and though Mr. Ward converſed

* See his Life publiſhed by RICHARDS, at his Lottery Office in Holborn.

converſed with him for ſome minutes, yet on his public examination at the office in Bow ſtreet, he would not take upon him to ſwear to the identity of his perſon.

In a few days after this, he robbed Mr. Mackey of his money; and about the ſame time Mr Walter was robbed of four guineas; but though he was convinced in his own mind that Hawke was the man, he could not prevail with himſelf to ſwear poſitively againſt him.

About ſix months ago, Hawke meeting the York Fly on Finchley Common, eaſed the paſſengers of their money; and finding a bottle of wine and a cold fowl belonging to one of them, he eat and drank very heartily, and during his entertainment converſed very freely with them, and then wiſhing them a good night, rode after four Quakers on horſeback, from whom he took about 70l. and their watches.

Mrs Loroux and her daughter, being in a poſt-chaiſe paſſing over Barnet Common, it was their ill fortune to meet with Hawke, who robbed the old lady, but the young one being extremely frightened, fainted away, upon which he left them; but on her recovery, ſhe called after him, and on his returning back, gave him her purſe, containing about 14s.

In October laſt, as Theophilus Robottom, Eſq; was travelling in his chaiſe near Wandſworth, he was attacked by Hawke, who robbed him of about 4l. and a ſilver watch.

In the ſame month he happened to ſtop a landau and four near Kenſington Gravel-pits, and going to examine what ſort of prize he was likely to make, he found four ladies, with whom he had been long and familiarly acquainted; but this notwithſtanding, he demanded their money, which they not ſeeming very willing to part with, he told them plainly, there was no friendſhip in buſineſs, and ſternly repeating his demand, pointed a piſtol to the particular lady, for whom, it was ſuppoſed, he had a more than ordinary regard. This circumſtance of the pointed piſtol occaſioned a terrible ſhriek among them, which, though not very harmonious, was as forcible as the braying of ſo many long-ear'd animals joined in chorus. However, it made

made no impreſſion on Hawke, who would hearken to no terms, nor enter into any treaty. At laſt, ſeeing there was no remedy, they gave him thirteen guineas and ſome ſilver, with one gold and three metal watches, rings, lockets, ear-rings, and other trinkets, which having received, he rode off, highly pleaſed with this adventure. However, he thought it prudent to give a wink to his favourite Dulcinea, leſt the matter ſhould ſpread, for knowing them to be leaky veſſels, he could not truſt to their keeping the ſecret very long; and to prevent their further tattle about it, made them a viſit the next evening at M———s, returned to every one her property, gave them a handſome collation, and left them all as mad and frolickſome as intoxication could make them.

A few months ago, he ſtopped Mr. Peaſley, of Little Chelſea, near Kenſington Gravel-pits, and demanded his money in the uſual form; but Mr. Peaſley poſitively refuſing to deliver it, and Hawke as preremptorily inſiſting to have it, the diſpute could not be terminated but by arms. Hawke drew his piſtol, and Mr. Peaſley took another out of the pocket of his chaiſe, and fired directly, but the piſtol burſting, took off the thumb and two firſt fingers of his right hand. Hawke gave him his handkerchief, and with the utmoſt care and tenderneſs, tied up his wound, and bid him drive with all poſſible ſpeed to a neighbouring ſurgeon.

By this time his fame was ſo ſpread, and his perſon ſo well known, that he judged it prudent to have a report circulated that he was gone to France in the moſt indigent circumſtances; and it is very probable, that by this ſtratagem he ſo long eſcaped the hands of juſtice, though many informations had been lodged againſt him. Under this concealment he ſecured himſelf for ſeveral months; but though juſtice has leaden heels, it has iron hands, for it rarely happens, that the perpetrator of ſuch a number of atrocious villainies, always eſcapes the puniſhment due to his crimes.

But before we proceed to give an account of his apprehenſion, it will be proper to relate the circumſtances of his attack on Mr. Hart, on whoſe evidence chiefly he was afterwards convicted.

On

On March 28th laſt, towards the evening, Mr. Hart and Capt. Cunningham took a hack ney coach, in order to go to Fulham; after paſſing through Knightſbridge, their converſation turned upon the danger of travelling, when the Captain recollected that he was unarmed, and ſaid, that from the time he was able to make uſe of defenſive weapons, he did not remember he ever undertook a journey, how ſhort ſoever, without being provided with the neceſſary means of ſecurity. He had ſcarce uttered theſe words, when Hawke was heard to cry aloud to the coachman, *Damn your eyes, ſtop, or I'll blow your brains out!* Then coming up to the coach window, thruſt a piſtol againſt Mr. Hart's breaſt, and demanded his money. Mr. Hart gave him one ſhilling and ſixpence, and ſome halfpence, the ſight of which ſo enraged him, that he cried out, in a violent paſſion, *Damn you, d'ye think I'll accept of halfpence?* During this conteſt, the captain was endeavouring to conceal his pocket-book, which Hawke perceiving, inſtantly pointed his piſtol at him, and ſwore he would lodge a brace of balls in his head, if he did not that moment deliver. But this intrepid ſon of Mars, and at the ſame time not a little inſpired with the ſpirit of Bacchus, with more courage than prudence, bid him *fire away and be damn'd*; and the word was no ſooner given than obeyed; and though the piſtol ſeemed aimed directly at the captain, the ball paſſed cloſe to Mr. Hart's face, grazed the captain's ſhoulder, and ſlightly wounded his arm. Hawke hereupon diſmounted, and the gentlemen got out of the coach, and prepared to aſſault him; upon which Hawke ſnapped another piſtol, which miſſing fire, his rage was kindled in every feature of his face; he eagerly endeavoured to load the piſtol he had diſcharged, which they prevented by pelting him with ſtones, and the Captain beat him with a ſmall ſtick. Mr. Hart's paſſion and reſolution of ſecuring the villain at length ſubſided; but the Captain's fury was not ſo ſoon appeaſed, for having done all he could to annoy the thief, he vented his rage on his horſe, which he beat violently with his ſwitch ſtick. Meanwhile Hawke ſearched the coach, but finding nothing, was preparing to recover his horſe, and ſeeing Mr. Hart ſtanding

at

at about ſix yards diſtance, preſented a piſtol at him, and threatened to fire if he ſtirred an inch. Upon which the coachman cried, I hope, Sir, you won't ſhoot my horſes. No, replied Hawke, let's look at your number; aye, aye, you are a good honeſt fellow; I ſhall know you again. The Captain then joined Mr. Hart, and the villain mounted and rode off.

After he was taken, and under examination at Bow-ſtreet, he behaved with great decency; and Sir John aſking him if he had any thing to object to the evidence, or to ſay in his own defence, he replied in the negative. He was immediately ordered to Newgate, as ſoon as Mr. Hart had entered into a recognizance to appear againſt him at the Old Bailey.

On Friday the 28th of September laſt, as Mr. and Mrs. Branſcomb, of Holborn, were paſſing by Shepherd's Buſh in a ſingle-horſe chaiſe, Hawke in a low accent demanded their money. Mr. Branſcomb, not willing to comply with his requeſt, deſired him to keep further off the chaiſe, at the ſame time declaring he did not underſtand him; when Hawke, with all the compoſure imaginable, clapped his piſtol to his cheek, and replied, *this will make you*; whereupon Mr. Branſcomb delivered a ſeven-and-twenty and ſix-and-ninepence pieces, being all the caſh he had about him, and not worth contending for. Hawke was not at all pleaſed with his booty, declaring, that Portugal money was not current, but ſaid, from his preſent neceſſity he was obliged to take it.

Not long after this, Mr. Branſcomb having an occaſion to ſend a ſervant to Hanwell with the chaiſe, and in it a ſmall caſk, the ſervant was ſtopped on Acton Common with the uſual ſalute, when he declared he had not above 2s. or 2s. 6d. which he was endeavouring to give him, when Hawke, obſerving ſomething under the leather of the chaiſe, aſked if there was any perſon aſleep at the bottom of the chaiſe? the man replied No, it was an empty caſk; whereupon Hawke unbuttoned the flap, moved the caſk, and enquired of the man if he was the maſter of that *thing?* who replied in the negative; whereupon Hawke inſiſted upon knowing his maſter's name, which he after ſome heſitation complied with, when Hawke ordered him to

keep his 2s. 6d. but charged him to be ſure to tell his maſter, that he was a *damn'd fooliſh fellow* to travel that road himſelf ſo late, or let his ſervant without more money.

In 1770 Hawke was tranſported for 14 years, with Field, for receiving a bank note, value 20l. which Field had ſtolen out of the pocket of John Gorden, Eſq; coming out of the Opera-houſe in the Hay-market.

We come now to the manner of his apprehenſion, which, as it was attended with ſome ſingular circumſtances, we ſhall be the more particular in our account of it, as related by Meſſrs. Bond and Smith.

It was ſome time before any certain intelligence could be given, of his continuing his depredations on the highway; but at length, one information being lodged, others poured in apace; and the deſcription given of the offender, perfectly agreed with the perſon of Hawke, who had ſeparated himſelf from his comrades, living in a very recluſe manner, whereby he was the better able to elude the vigilance of his purſuers.

Mr. Smith, governor of Tothil-fields Bridewell, hearing that Hawke's wife had been ſeen at Uxbridge, ſet out immediately for that place, where he learnt the number of the coach in which Mrs. Hawke was brought to London. On his return to town, on enquiry, he found the coach belonged to a ſtable keeper, near Hatton-Garden; upon which, having procured the aſſiſtance of Mr. Bond, they went to the yard, and enquired for the driver, who appearing, they queſtion'd him very cloſely in relation to Hawke's retreat, and by his reply were ſoon convinced that he was not unapprized of their intention; it therefore became neceſſary to entice the man from his own neighbourhood, to prevent his conveying any intelligence to the object of their ſearch, and ſo fruſtrate their projected plan. Accordingly they prevailed on him, to accompany them to a public houſe, at Hockley in the Hole; where, by perſuaſions and threatnings to exerciſe their authority, he let them know, that Hawke had a lodging at No. 2, in Roſe and Crown Court, in Shoe-Lane.

Lane. Upon which they diſpatched a meſſenger for more aſſiſtance, and the coachman becoming more communicative, told them of ſeveral material circumſtances relating to Hawke, and in particular deſcribed his horſe, mentioning ſeveral times when he had rode out upon it, and believed he was then at home, and in bed.

Having got this intelligence, and the perſons they ſent for being arrived, they went to the Red Hart, in Shoe-Lane, where they concerted the plan for the attack. Some of them being planted at the end of the Court, Bond and Smith went to the houſe, which the coachman had directed them to, and having looked into the lower apartments heard the latch of the ſtreet door go, and found means to conceal themſelves on the firſt floor; Smith was ſtationed at the foot of the ſtairs, while Bond followed a woman into a front room on the ſecond ſtory, where ſeeing Hawke dozing in bed, he inſtantly ſprung forwards, threw himſelf upon him, and exerting his whole ſtrength, with great difficulty kept him down, and prevented his catching hold of a horſe-piſtol which lay by his ſide. After a hard ſtruggle for a few minutes, Smith came to his aſſiſtance, and ſeeing Hawke's hand within a few inches of another piſtol, he ſnatched it up, and thereby probably ſav'd the life of his companion. For in the ſtruggle, the ſheet had twiſted about part of Bond's head, by which means, his antagoniſt ſeem'd to have got the advantage in the conflict. However, by Smith's aſſiſtance he was at length ſubdued; and as ſoon as he had breath enough to ſpeak ſeeing his wife, cryed out *damn you, Madam, where were you all this time?* But the poor woman was ſo deeply affected with her huſband's fate, that ſhe could anſwer him only with ſighs and tears. He would not give up the conteſt, tho' very unequal, ſo long as he had any ſtrength to maintain it; but that failing, he was ſecured. Which being done, he declared that Smith and Bond might think themſelves very happy in having eſcaped his vengance; for if they had not proceeded in attacking him with that prudence and cou-

rage

rage they did, he would have blown them to atoms. But being put into a coach, and the violence of his paſſion being ſomewhat abated, he was glad, he ſaid, no miſchief had happened.

Let us now attend him to the Old-Bailey, where he was arraigned and indicted May 18, for ſtopping Thomas Croucher, on the King's highway, and robbing him of a metal watch, value 20s.

The trial laſted but a ſhort time, and the priſoner in his defence only ſaid, that he would not give the honourable court any trouble; and being ſtill adviſed to proceed to his defence, he declined it, upon which the Recorder ſet forth the ſeveral circumſtances contained in the charge, and left it to the jury to determine upon the whole; who, upon a ſhort conſultation, brought in their verdict, *not guilty*.

He was a ſecond time indicted for robbing Mr. Charles Hart, on the King's highway, on the 28th of May: Mr. Hart gave a very punctual and circumſtantial account of the robbery, and brought it ſo home to the priſoner as to convince the jury he was the man. See the account of the robbery, p. 20.

In his defence, he ſaid, that tho' he had been guilty of affairs of this kind, yet he was innocent of the fact for which he was now tried; that he was turned of 30 years of age, and had a wife and two ſmall children.—Guilty. Death.

He did not attempt to invalidate any part of the proſecutor's evidence; and the judge, in ſumming it up, very pathetically expatiated on the heinouſneſs of his crimes, and that as he forfeited life to the juſtice of his country, the laws required that reparation which that alone could give, and therefore exhorted him to make a due uſe of that time which was allowed him to prepare for his eternal ſtate.

The judge's affecting admonitions ſeemed to make a very great impreſſion on the priſoner, which he expreſſed in his dejected countenance, in which appeared all the traces of grief, terror, and repentance that viſibly affected him at that moment. On hearing the foreman of the jury pronounce his fate, his ſoul ſeemed ſtruck with horror; and while the effuſions of his grief burſt from his eyes, in a low tremulous

tremulous voice which manifeſted a conſciouſneſs of his ſad and forlorn condition, he endeavoured, in broken language, to move the compaſſion of the court; in which tho' he could not ſucceed, yet all who heard him, ſeem'd to feel the agonies of his mind in their own breaſts, and to ſympathize in his ſufferings, at the ſame time that they allowed the juſtice of the puniſhment to which he was doomed.

Hawke's Behaviour in Newgate, while under Sentence of Death.

Hawke having received ſentence was conveyed back to his former lodging in Newgate, where his behaviour ever ſince has been unexceptionably regular and decent.

From the whole tenour of his conduct, ſince his conviction and condemnation, he ſeems fully convinced of the atrociouſneſs of his crimes, and that he juſtly deſerves the puniſhment which is allotted him.

In a viſit which ſome gentlemen paid him in the Preſs-yard, he told them that the perſon who betrayed him for the lucre of ten guineas, had had many ten guineas of him; but who, ſaid he, can expect gratitude from ſuch mercenary wretches to perſons in his way of life? But he freely forgave him, wiſhing, however, that he would not come to ſee him under his preſent unhappy circumſtances; for though he would not hurt him himſelf, yet he was ſure his fellow priſoners would, who never fail to reſent ſuch baſe practices, whenever they meet with the perſons who are guilty of them. He ſaid, he never hurt the perſons of thoſe he robbed, and ſeemed indeed of a very compaſſionate temper, and really pitied the miſerable condition of thoſe of his fellow priſoners who were under ſentence of death, and often relieved their wants.

His wife frequently viſits him in the preſs-yard, for whom he expreſſes great tenderneſs, not forgetting to adviſe her, in the moſt earneſt and affecting terms, to break off and avoid thoſe pernicious connections to which he had moſt unhappily introduced her. Nor

was Mrs. Hawke's conduct leſs remarkable than that of her huſband; for if any judgment may be formed of her ſincerity from her behaviour, ſhe bears an equal ſhare in his affliction, and is as ſenſibly affected with his deplorable ſituation, as if ſhe herſelf were in the ſame ſad condition.

Several gentlemen whom Hawke had robbed, went to viſit him in Newgate, with a view to recover the effects they had loſt, which they valued at a higher rate than they were really worth. To ſuch kind of queſtions he has given very ready anſwers, though not much to the ſatisfaction of the enquirers, as their properties had been diſtributed through ſuch a variety of channels, that it was next to impoſſible to trace them.

In ſhort, his whole conduct, ſince his conviction, has hitherto been unexceptionably proper and ſuitable to his unhappy circumſtances; and as there is no reaſon to doubt but his preſent penitential diſpoſition will continue to his lateſt breath, there is ground to hope he will meet with that mercy at the great tribunal above, which true penitents are encouraged to expect.

On Friday, July 1, early in the morning, the priſoners employed themſelves in ſinging pſalms and other acts of devotion. Exactly at ſeven o'clock they were brought from the cell into the preſs-yard, in order to the taking off their irons. Jones trembled as if his frame was diſſolving, while Hawke appeared, if not with unconcern, with a fortitude very unuſual. While their irons were taking off, an acquaintance of Hawke accoſted him with, a "How d'ye, Billy?" which the other replied to with chearfulneſs, and enquired after an old acquaintance, who he heard was indiſpoſed. From Newgate to the place of execution, Hawke behaved with a calm reſignation. When he came within 200 yards of Oxford-ſtreet turnpike, he looked round him, as if he wiſhed rather than feared his journey at an end. When the cart arrived at the place of execution, about 20 minutes were ſpent in devotion, and then they were tied up. A number of pigeons were now thrown into the air. About a minute before they were turned off, Hawke kicked off his ſhoes with great violence, and at the inſtant the cart moved,

he

he drew up his knees to his breaſt, ſo as to fall with a violent jerk, which diſlocated his neck, and inſtantly deprived him of life. Mr. Sheriff Lee and Mr. Reynolds, the Under-Sheriff, attended the execution. Hawke was dreſſed in his wedding cloaths, being a new light-coloured ſuit, and a ruffled ſhirt. His brother took his ſhoe and knee buckles out when he came to Tyburn. A hearſe and four waited with a handſome black coffin with yellow nails, on which was the following inſcription:

Mr. WILLIAM HAWKE
Died JULY 1ſt,
1774,
Aged 34.

He deſired that a tomb ſtone might be erected to his memory, with an epitaph from a ſtone in Stepney Church-yard, beginning thus:

Adieu, vain world! I have had enough of thee.

It was obſerved, that ſuch a number of ſpectators had not attended an execution ſince that of young Cox, of famous memory, as were crouding the cataſtrophe of William Hawke.

Having thus kept company with our hero through a great variety of exploits to the fatal tree, we think it will not be an improper digreſſion in this place, to give an account of the fate of his three companions. Mac Donald, as we have ſaid before, was executed at Tyburn; Milſom was executed at Ayleſbury, ſome time in April laſt, for robbing Mr. Lucas on the highway with Field and Hawke; Field was executed laſt September, on Kennington Common, for a robbery in the county of Surry. Thus have theſe four famous footpads and highwaymen, in a few years, made their exit at the fatal tree, who in their time were the moſt daring and deſperate gang that ever infeſted the roads about this town.

A few reflections on the occaſions of ſo many robberies as are daily committed, will not, we preſume, be thought improper.

One great encouragement to robbery, is the certainty of finding a market for their booty.* The pawnbroker's

* See an Enquiry into the Cauſes of the late Increaſe of Robberies, &c. by *Henry Fielding*, Eſq.

broker's ſhop is a ſure receptacle for ſuch kind of merchandize. Is it impoſſible to find any method of regulating pawnbrokers? If ſo, what arguments are againſt extirpating entirely a ſet of miſcreants, which, like other vermin, harbour only about the poor, and grow fat by only ſucking their blood?

Why ſhould not the receiving ſtolen goods, knowing them to be ſtolen, be made an original offence? by which means the thief, who is commonly a paltry offender in compariſon with the receiver, and ſometimes his pupil, might in little felonies be made a witneſs againſt him; for thus the trial of the receiver would in no caſe depend on the trial or conviction of the thief.

Why may not the bare buying or taking to pawn ſtolen goods, above a certain value, be made evidence of receiving with knowledge, &c. unleſs the goods were bought in market overt (no broker's or pawnbroker's ſhop to be reputed ſuch market overt) or unleſs the defendant could prove, by a credible witneſs to the tranſaction, that he had good cauſe to regard the ſeller or pawner of the goods to be the real owner.

Another cauſe of the number of robberies we daily hear of, are the too frequent and expenſive diverſions among the lower kind of people. The vaſt torrent of luxury which of late years hath poured in upon us, hath greatly contributed to this evil. In a free country it is a branch of liberty claimed by the people, to be as wicked and as profligate as their ſuperiors. Thus while the nobleman will emulate the grandeur of the prince, the gentleman will aſpire to the proper ſtate of a nobleman; the tradeſman ſteps from behind his counter into the vacant place of the gentleman. Nor doth the confuſion end here; it reaches the very dregs of the people, who aſpiring ſtill to a degree beyond that which belongs to them, and not being able by the fruits of honeſt labour to ſupport the ſtate which they affect, they diſdain the wages to which their induſtry would intitle them, and abandoning themſelves to idleneſs, the moſt ſimple and poor-ſpirited betake themſelves to a ſtate of ſtarving and beggary, while thoſe of more art and courage become thieves, ſharpers, and robbers.

Such places of pleaſure, therefore, as are totally ſet apart

apart for the uſe of the great world, I meddle not with. And though *Ranelagh* and *Vauxhall*, by reaſon of their price, are not entirely appropriated to people of faſhion, yet they are ſeldom frequented by any below the middle rank, and a ſtrict regard to decency is obſerved in them both. But ſurely two ſuch places are ſufficient to contain thoſe who have any title to ſpend their time in this idle, though otherwiſe innocent way; nor ſhould ſuch a faſhion be allowed to ſpread into every village round London, and by degrees all over the country, by which means not only idleneſs, but all kinds of immorality will be encouraged.

Gaming is another ſchool in which highwaymen of great eminence have been bred. This vice is the more dangerous, as it is deceitful, and, contrary to every other ſpecies of luxury, flatters its votaries with the hopes of increaſing their wealth; ſo that avarice itſelf is ſo far from ſecuring us againſt its temptations, that it often betrays the more thoughtleſs and giddy part of mankind into them, promiſing riches without bounds, and thoſe to be acquired by the moſt ſudden, as well as eaſy and indeed pleaſant means.

In the mean time we may, I think, reaſonably deſire of thoſe in more exalted ſtations, that they would keep their favourite vice to themſelves, and not ſuffer others, whoſe birth or fortune gives them no title to be above the terror of the laws, of the cenſure of their betters, to ſhare with them in this privilege. Surely we may give great men the ſame advice, which *Archer*, in the play, gives to the officers of the army; *to kick out all—in red but their own.* What temptations can gameſters of faſhion have, to admit *inferiour* ſharpers into their ſociety? Common ſenſe, ſurely, will not ſuffer a man to riſque a fortune againſt one who hath none of his own to ſtake againſt it.

Whoever indeed conſiders the cities of London and Weſtminſter, with the late vaſt addition of their ſuburbs: the great irregularity of their buildings, the immenſe number of lanes, alleys, courts, and bye-places, muſt think, that, had they been intended for the very purpoſe of concealment, they could ſcarce have been better contrived. Upon ſuch

a view, the whole appears as a vaſt wood or foreſt, in which a thief may harbour with as much ſecurity, as the wild beaſts do in the deſarts of Africa or Arabia.

But if every hope fails the thief: If he ſhould be diſcovered, apprehended, proſecuted, convicted, and refuſed a pardon; what is his ſituation then? Surely moſt gloomy and dreadful, without any hope, and without any comfort. This is the caſe, perhaps with the leſs practiſed, leſs ſpirited, and leſs dangerous rogues; but with thoſe of a different conſtitution it is far otherwiſe. No hero ſees death as the alternative which may attend his undertaking with leſs terror, nor meets in the field with more imaginary glory. Pride, which is commonly the uppermoſt paſſion in both, is in both treated with equal ſatisfaction. The day appointed by the law for the thief's ſhame, is the day of glory in his opinion. His proceſſion to *Tyburn*, and his laſt moments there, are all triumphant; attended with the meek and tender hearted, and with the applauſe, admiration and envy of all the bold and hardened. His behaviour in his preſent condition, not the crimes, how atrocious ſoever, which brought him to it, are the ſubject of contemplation. And if he has ſenſe enough to temper his boldneſs with any degree of decency, his death is ſpoke of by many with honour, by moſt with pity, and by all with approbation. How far ſuch an example is from being an object of terror, I leave to the conſideration of every rational Man.

The great cauſe of this evil is the frequency of executions. Common reaſon will demonſtrate this; and the different effects which executions produce in the minds of the ſpectators in the country where they are rare, and in London where they are common, will convince us by experience, that the thief who is hanged to day, has learnt his intrepidity from the example of his predeceſſor there; thus others are taught to deſpiſe death, and to encourage themſelves in wickedneſs.

FINIS.